

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, June 21, 2004 at 4:30 pm in the Board of Works Room at West Lafayette City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Mike Dana, Paula Woods, Karen Springer and Attorney John Sorensen. Council Members Ann Hunt and Gil Satterly were present. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Lee Booth, Brenda Lorenz, Brian Tunis, and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Absent were Park Board members Leon Trachtman, Garnet Peck, and Council member Gerry Keen.

Mike convened the Board at 4:30pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the May 17 meeting. Paula motioned the minutes be approved as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Superintendent** – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted this was Karen Springer's last meeting as the West Lafayette School Board representative. He extended thanks and appreciation to Karen for all of her work as a representative.
- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- Mentioned on July 31, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will be doing a run/walk at the Celery Bog Nature Area, using the Cattail Trail.
- Joe received a nice thank you letter, with thanks extended to Bob Cheever, for his help with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation walk on May 16.
- Joe also received a nice note of thanks from West Lafayette Little League, thanking us for discussing the Pony League's situation, which will be continued, and a thank you to the Parks department for all that we do for Little League.
- Joe announced Riverfest is still planned and going, showing a current picture of the layout for the event.
- Noted we will be losing our Trails Manager, Brad Walker. He has chosen to pursue a business opportunity that he did not want to pass up. We will be posting the position, and hope to interview and fill the position in August.
- Passed around news release received for Dancing in the Streets.

**Assistant Superintendent** – Pennie reported on the following:

- Currently working on Global Fest issues to prepare for the event.
- We are starting the second half of the softball season. Hopefully, the lights will be installed within the next two weeks, so that we can have some night games.
- Distributed a pool financial report to show the progress of the pool year-to-date, which has done well this year.

**Parks** – Lee reported on the following:

- Inspections.
- Trying to keep up with cutting grass.
- Pool is up and running for the season.
- Still working on utility hookup for Cumberland shelters and Tapawingo storage building.
- Repairing damage and general cleanup from rains and flood.

**Recreation** – Chris reported on the following:

- The pool hosted the annual Splash Bash on Friday, May 28. Coke donated prizes given away in a random drawing. The Splash Bash celebrated the end of school and the official opening of the pool. One-hundred fourteen people attended this annual event.
- Volleyball Camp, coached by W.L. Varsity coach Doug Klumpe, was held the first week of June. Forty-three children in grades 4-8 were enrolled.
- Craig Shaeffer, W.L. Girls Varsity coach, hosted the Girls Basketball Camp. Thirty-seven girls enrolled in this summer camp.
- Summer swim lessons are well underway. Swim lessons for the first three levels are at near capacity.
- Soccer Camp was held this past week, with thirteen children enrolled.
- Tim Wright is the Tennis Lesson Program coordinator. Tennis lessons are also at capacity.

**Morton Center** – Brenda reported on the following:

- As previously reported, our registrations appeared to have been down by approximately 10% as compared to last year. People may have been a little slower to sign up for classes this year, as we are now showing a 6% increase in enrollments. There have been 1,134 registrations for the summer classes as of Friday at Morton compared to last year's figure of 1,072 reported at the June Park Board meeting. That is an increase of 66 registrations.
- The electronic screen has been installed in the multipurpose room above the stage. The screen was purchased with the North Central Health Services grant money Morton received.
- Morton Community Center has been awarded a mini-grant of \$1,000.00 from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts to be used to offer an introductory class in each of the mediums of art classes to individuals aged 12-18. A fee of \$15 per three hour class will be charged to help pay for the matching part of the grant. Supplies will be provided. There will be some scholarship opportunities for area young people wanting to attend the workshops. The classes will be held in the fall.
- The Morton parking lot is scheduled for some maintenance repairs the week of July 3-9. There will not be any classes meeting during that week. For anyone meeting regularly during this time, notification has been sent that the parking lot will not be available, and cautioned that parking in the area may be very difficult.

**Beautification & Stewardship** – Brian reported on the following:

- Cut down/removed hazardous trees along Trolley Line Trail.
- Spruced up Tapawingo Park and Myers Pedestrian Plaza area as part of preparation for the Taste of Tippecanoe.
- Contract restoration work was performed at Celery Bog Nature Area. Slusser's has seeded prairie grasses along berms, and planted oak trees along trail. Several trees have already suffered damage from being eaten by either deer or rabbits.
- Performing typical landscape maintenance for this time of year, weeding and mulching.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Projects Update**

Joe noted that Brian mentioned plantings in Celery Bog Nature Area. We are completing the planned development, through funds provided to us from the owners, berm plantings along University Place. The work that is being done west of the woods and south of the lodge, is reimbursable Indiana Heritage Trust stewardship work. We will be doing quite a bit more work as time goes on, approximately \$30,000 worth of plantings. Joe stated that we eliminated a couple of hazard trees last week, the old elm trees located in front of Morton on N. Chauncey. We will be redoing the curb along the Morton Center side as part of North Chauncey Streetscape. We will have new curbs on both sides of the street, underground utility lines, and all new trees. Joe added that the installation of the ball field lights is underway (and will hopefully be completed this month or first part of next month); the concrete work should begin either this week or next in Dubois Park; work continues on the parking lot expansion at Cumberland Park (there will also be a spur to the Northwest Greenway Trail); and the new segment of the Wabash Heritage Trail in Tapawingo Park was paved today (the park should be in good shape for Riverfest). Joe noted we have been able to do a lot of catching up, but we have also found many new things to do, such as try to repair places that are washing out on the Northwest Greenway Trail, the Trolley Line Trail, the road in Happy Hollow, (and possibly other things not yet discovered because they are still under water). Joe added that the Redevelopment Commission met today at noon and a transfer was done to enable us to do the curb along Morton and to hire T.J. Gall to help us with project utility coordination.

## **New Business**

### **A. Tippecanoe County Child Care Lease**

Joe presented a standard lease with Tippecanoe County Child Care for \$1.00 per year, with both sides being able to opt out when they so desire. Karen motioned to approve to enter into the lease agreement with Tippecanoe County Child Care as presented. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **B. Budget**

Joe reported the budget request this year only has minor changes in operating from last year. Joe passed around a memo showing what we are trying to do with capital projects, noting there could be some items we missed, or some that might need some explaining. It will probably mean more after the presentation to the Council on July 6 at 5:00pm, noting that the Park Board is welcome to attend. That will be the beginning of all of the department presentations to the Council. They will continue the following week. Joe also pointed out a spreadsheet put together on June 6, 2004 by the Clerk-Treasurer's office that shows the changes from year to year for the different account categories, noting that these reports will be revised, particularly following the meeting on July 6.

### **West Lafayette School Board**

Karen reported that Kimberly Bowers has been named principal for Cumberland Elementary School effective July 1, 2004. She was a past teacher at Cumberland and for the past seven years has served as principal of Attica's K-5 elementary school. Ann Koivo has agreed to serve another year as interim principal for the West Lafayette Jr. /Sr. High School. She will be on board until June 30, 2005. Two work sessions have been held regarding the Happy Hollow Community Task Force Final Working Plan, June 2, & June 16. Discussions will continue and more are planned for this summer. The annual Music Booster's Ice Cream Social will be next Tuesday, June 29, 6-9pm at Happy Hollow Elementary School gym. The summer strings and band groups will be performing that evening. There will be frozen custard, Coke products, and baked goods available for purchase. Organizational meeting will be held Monday, July 12 for new board members who will be sworn in at that time. The board will also vote on the proposed slate of officers. The proposed slate is Steve Shook for President, Dottie Rausch for Vice-President and Roland Winger for Secretary. It is uncertain at this time if there may be a new board representative at the July 19 meeting, depending on how quickly they can get organized and get the committee assignments in place. Karen acknowledged that this was her final meeting as a Park Board member and that she appreciated serving the students and the patrons of the corporation and the City as the school board representative on the Park Board. She commended the park employees and the Park Board for the excellent job that they do. She noted the facilities and the programming are excellent. The dedication to the future improvement to the quality of life for the citizens of West Lafayette is to be commended. She noted that it has been a pleasure to work with everyone and that she will be happy to help with projects or in any way that she can.

Mike Dana acknowledged Karen's service to the Park Board as well, and her continued involvement through her teaching at Morton and so forth. He noted that the Park Board has benefited from her participation, and they hope that it continues in some way or another for the future.

### **Wabash River Parkway Commission**

Paula reported that they are concentrating on Riverfest scheduled for July 10, 9-5pm. They are hoping the river recedes enough so that it can take place this year. They spoke with Smokey Anderson about a safe river level that allows them to proceed with the plans. Sheila Klinker was at the last meeting and is enthusiastic about making the development of the Wabash a priority and the emphasis that they are going to put on it. She is looking forward to the commission's role in that.

### **Other**

#### **Surplus Items**

Pennie requested Park Board to declare the following items as surplus:

Two Nextel phones, no longer in use by Pennie and Sue, to be recycled and donated to the Women's shelter. Paula motioned to declare the items requested as surplus. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Library Summer Program**

Pennie presented a request for forty single admission passes to the pool, valued at \$80.00, from the Library for their summer reading club, Books Ahoy. This is an annual request that we have accommodated in the past. Karen motioned to approve the request of the single admission pool passes for the Library. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Joe reminded everyone of the Park Board Luncheon next month, July 19, noting the plans are for the same as years past, unless someone requests something else. Everyone agreed to proceed as in years past.

**Purchase Orders**

N/A

**Pay Claims**

Karen motioned that claims be paid. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary

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